

Serial No.: 09/709,045
Filed: November 10, 2000
AMENDMENT

APPENDIX: Clean Copy of Claims as Amended

1. (amended) A method for reducing the amount of transformed, infected or diseased tissue in a patient comprising

contacting the blood of a patient in need thereof with an effective amount of antibodies binding to soluble cytokine receptor molecules, wherein the cytokine receptor is selected from the group consisting of soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1") and soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2") wherein binding of the antibodies prevents the soluble cytokine receptor from binding to the cytokine, until the transformed, infected, or diseased tissue is reduced in amount compared to the amount present at the time the treatment is initiated.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is a solid tumor.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the disease is a viral or parasitic disease causing immunosuppression.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the tissue with an agent selected from the group consisting of anti-angiogenic compounds, procoagulant compounds, cytokines, chemotherapeutic agents, and radiation.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules.
8. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the cytokine receptor molecules are removed by binding to the cytokine or to an antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

Serial No.: 09/709,045

Filed: November 10, 2000

AMENDMENT

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.
10. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody is humanized.
11. (twice amended) The method of claim 1 comprising contacting the blood or components thereof with antibodies or antibody fragments immobilized in a sterile endotoxin free extracorporeal device.
17. A method of enhancing an immune response in a patient comprising:
- obtaining whole blood from the patient;
 - separating out the plasma;
 - contacting the plasma with antibody specifically binding to a targeted immune system inhibitor;
 - removing the inhibitor bound to the antibody from the plasma; and
 - returning the antibody-contacted plasma to the patient.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the antibody is immobilized in a solid support or membrane.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein the antibody is recombinant or a binding fragment.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein the antibody is a mixture of antibodies immunoreactive with the targeted immune system inhibitor.
21. The method of claim 17, wherein the patient is human.
22. The method of claim 17 wherein the targeted immune system inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of soluble receptors for tumor necrosis factors alpha and beta.